



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

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LO

AUG - 6 1997

Reply To
Attn Of: ECO-088

Ray Emerson
U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Alaska OCS Region
949 E. 36th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302

Dear Mr. Emerson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the **Beaufort Sea Planning Area Oil and Gas Lease Sale 170 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for review in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We have rated the draft EIS LO (Lack of Objections). The draft EIS evaluates the impacts from oil and gas exploration in the Beaufort Sea and we do not foresee having any environmental objections to the proposed project. A general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit has already been issued by our agency for oil and gas exploration in the Beaufort Sea. We believe any concerns with discharges from this project have already been addressed in the permit.

A copy of our ratings system is enclosed and if you have any questions regarding our review, please contact John Bregar of my staff at (206) 552- 1984.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Parkin, Manager
Geographic Implementation Unit

EPA does not foresee having any enviro. obj. to the proposed project.